

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 JIDDA 00255 130959Z

21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 /030 W
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R 130909Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3361
INFO USDOC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

UNCLAS JIDDA 0255

ATHENS FOR RTDO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, BGEN, SA

SUBJECT: PORT FEES TO BE CANCELLED

1. LOCAL PRESS JANUARY 7 REPORTED THAT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAS PASSED RESOLUTION TO CANCEL PORT FEES THROUGHOUT KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA. SPECIFIC FEES NOTED WERE SR 60 PER HOUR FEE FOR AFTER-HOURS WORK TO WITHDRAW GOODS, FEES BASED ON TONNAGE IN RESPECT TO LOADING AND OFF LOADING GOODS, AND SPECIAL AFTER-HOURS FEE FOR OPENING WAREHOUSES.

2. OFFICIALS AT THE PORT OF JIDDA CONFIRMED THE ACCURACY OF THE REPORT OF THESE MEASURES AND ADDED THAT THERE WAS ANOTHER FEE CANCELLATION WHICH COULD ONLY BE REVEALED WHEN THE OFFICIAL DECREE IS ISSUED. THIS MAY ENTAIL SUBSIDY OF ALL OR PART OF DEMURRAGE COSTS ON SPECIFIC GOODS, OR PENALTIES FOR EXCESSIVE DELAY IN WITHDRAWAL.

3. ACTION TAKEN TO LOWER COSTS TO IMPORTER AND CONSUMER AND PREVENT PRICE INCREASES ON THE "EXCUSE OF HIGHER PORT COSTS". DECREE WILL BE REPORTED WHEN OFFICIALLY PROMULGATED.
HORAN

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